DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 391 602 PS 023 942

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TITLE Adolescents and the Media: Medical and Psychological Impact. Developmental Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry, Volume 33.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8039-5500-6
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 144p.
AVAILABLE FROM SAGE Publications, Inc., 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 (Hardcover: ISBN-0-8039-5499-9, $37; Paperback: ISBN-0-8039-5500-6, $16.95). Add $2 handling charge. California residents add 7.25% sales tax; Illinois residents add 7.75% tax; Canadian orders add 7% Goods and Services Tax and orders must be paid in U.S. funds. Make check payable to Sage Publications, Inc.).
PUB TYPE Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Adolescents; Aggression; Children; *Communications; Drug Use; Influences; *Mass Media; *Mass Media Effects; Nonprint Media; Pornography; Printed Materials; Psychological Evaluation; *Psychological Studies; Psychometrics; Psychopathology; Rock Music; Sexuality; Social Psychology; Telecommunications; *Television Research; Video Games
IDENTIFIERS Bandura (Albert); Media Ethics; Music Videos; Television Theory

ABSTRACT

Aimed at primary care physicians and nurses, educators, and parents, this book reviews media effects on adolescent behavior and psychology. The book notes that television is a powerful medium to which adolescents are uniquely susceptible and how studies have shown television's ability to shape social attitudes. Theories of how television affects children's and adolescents' attitudes are discussed, including theories of social learning, excitation or arousal, cognitive neoassociation, and cognitive scripting. The chapters cover a number of topics as follows: (1) "Overview: How Is the Research Done? What Are the Issues?" covering the role of communications research; (2) "Media Violence and Aggressive Behavior," focusing on early research, desensitization, guns and the media, suicide, and video games; (3) "Adolescent Sexuality and the Media," discussing sexual information and pornography on television, in movies, and in print media; (4) "Adolescents, Drugs, and the Media," focusing on advertising of alcohol and cigarettes; (5) "Nutrition"; (6) "Rock Music and Music Videos"; and (7) "Adolescents and the Media: Solutions." Contains 485 references. (BGC)

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